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REMARKS

Claims 1-9, as amended, remain herein.

Claim 1 has been amended more clearly to recite applicants' invention. See applicants' specification, at page 7, lines 15-17. Main controller 4 sends to control method memory 11 one of many possible control methods, each corresponding to a specific moving distance.

Minor, editorial changes have been made in claims 4-9.

1. Objections were stated to the drawings for Fig. 12 allegedly not including the label "Prior Art." Submitted herewith is a copy of Figure 12 including the label "Prior Art." Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

2. The title has been replaced with: "Laser Processing Apparatus With Position Controller."

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3. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Togari et al. U.S. Patent 5,719,372, and claims 1 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art ('AAPA'), Figure 12.

The presently claimed laser processing apparatus comprises a position controller for (1) selecting a control method from a plurality of control methods, each corresponding to a predetermined moving distance of the positioning unit, and (2) controlling a position of the positioning according to the selected control method. This arrangement is nowhere disclosed or suggested in either of the cited references.

Each of Togari '372 and AAPA is cited for allegedly disclosing a laser having a position controller for controlling a position of the positioning unit according to a moving distance of the positioning unit, i.e., the distance the positioning unit is to be moved.

However, neither Togari '372 nor AAPA describes a positioning control that includes more than one positioning control method, and therefore, neither of these references describes a position controller for selecting a control method from a plurality of control methods, each corresponding to a

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predetermined moving distance of the positioning unit, and controlling a position of the positioning according to the selected control method, as recited in applicants' claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, neither Togari '372 nor AAPA discloses all elements of applicants' claimed invention, and therefore neither is a proper basis for rejection under §102. And, there is no disclosure or teaching in Togari '372 or AAPA that would have suggested the desirability of modifying any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Claims 2-9, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of each of these rejections are respectfully requested.

4. Claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over AAPA, Figure 12, in view of Kuriyama et al. U.S. Patent 5,670,068.

Kuriyama '068 does not provide the deficiencies of AAPA, Figure 12. Kuriyama '068, column 6, lines 19-35, is cited for allegedly disclosing a control method corresponding to the moving distance of the positioning unit. Kuriyama '068

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describes a control method that corrects the position of the target for temperature drift. While it is said that such compensation controls the position of the positioning unit according to a moving distance, which would be the distance due to temperature drift, such compensating control is a part of a single control method for positioning the positioning unit. Kuriyama '068, Fig. 4, is a flow diagram describing positioning control that includes no step for selecting one from a plurality of control methods. Kuriyama '068 does not select a control method from a plurality of control methods each corresponding to a moving distance of the positioning unit, as recited in applicants' claim 1, from which claim 5 depends.

For the foregoing reasons, neither Kuriyama '068 nor AAPA contains any teaching, suggestion, reason, motivation or incentive that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to applicants' claimed invention. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in either of these references that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Claims 2-5, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for the same reasons as claims 1. Accordingly,

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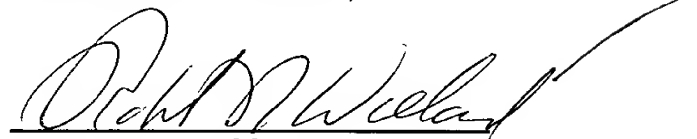
reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

All claims 1-9 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: 1 sheet replacement drawing (Figure 12)

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